

**ROUGH DRAFT**

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JULY 15, 2003
Special Board Meeting Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Greetings and Introductions

III. Ground Rules for Meeting – George Keck requested attendees be respectful and good listeners. George went over the agenda and asked people to abide by it. He read the LATAG mission statement, "Achieve satisfactory superfund site remedial action through community involvement and participation as provided for in all phases of the EPA (NPL) cleanup process." George, asked as a preliminary before the Technical Advisor's comments, how did we go from "removal" to "containment" to now "minimal release" as the policy for the clean up?

IV Technical Advisor Presentation – Gordon Sullivan introduced himself. He said it was refreshing to see Libby people working for EPA Contractors, saying this is Libby people solving Libby problems. Gordon admitted that each clean up unit was unique. He addressed the clean up of his own home as an example of problems that have left him and his wife, Kathy with a lot of questions about the policies of the clean up process. He wanted to stress that the EPA clean up is not a lawn beautification process but a health and safety issue.

He wanted to ask two major questions:

1. Truck and vehicle recontamination – Gordon perceived a number of different types of vehicles decontamination on his property and requested written policy and procedures. As an example, Gordon cited that trucks on his sites are sometimes sitting on plywood being loaded with excavators, another time there is no plastic on the side of the truck with brown "stuff" dripping off them. Sometimes he noted plastic stretched

around the trucks. He has visited other sites and witnessed plastic stretched forever around a vehicle and says he saw no similar procedure on his property. He says he has watched trucks roll from mud to dusty areas and is confused with the variety of procedures. He feels there is great potential of cross contaminating his neighbors. He asked for ER's policy on decontamination procedures, CDM's oversight policy on those procedures and EPA's regulations. Gordon wants to see one procedure and see it followed.

He asked why every worker has to bring a private rig on site, thereby increasing the number of vehicles re-contaminating neighborhood.

2. Gordon questioned the adequacy and validity of the air monitor testing that goes on in and around a clean up site. As he understood the EPA requirements, air monitor testing was to be North, South, East and West but, as an example, on his home the egress direction on the compass had no monitors. Gordon felt that that was the area that would show air contamination over the other areas that had monitors located in wet grass areas. Gordon wants to know why they are not testing egress areas on other sites as well.

Gordon questioned heater vents in his home, being taped in order to pass the contamination test. He wants to see duct and vents cleaned, removed if necessary to ensure that contamination doesn't blow back into the house. He wants to see a procedure documented that would thoroughly clean and test them. He asked Jim to please provide the procedures to LATAG. Gordon says that he feels strongly about this and if not satisfied, he will just keep harping on the subject.

Gordon questioned carpets and why they aren't removed since they are a known source of contamination.

Gordon asked, what is the Chain of Command for Health and Safety and where are the standards?

Gordon asked Jim to help us understand how the level of contamination "minimal release" was acceptable. He said that we've been told that there is no amount of tremolite asbestos that is safe, hence the original promise to remove tremolite asbestos from Libby. Then, he said, we were told that removal was impossible so we would be containing asbestos, e.g., in walls,

under ground, etc. Now we are being told, via the EPA Contractor work agreements for individual homes that the clean up will be to the point of "minimal release". He wants to know if the science has changed that has allowed such a huge difference in the clean up? If so he asks EPA to show us the revised science.

Gordon said that we were building a momentum of cleaning because the community thought it would be done right. Gordon said that his experiences with the clean up of his personal home is influencing his neighbors whether they want their properties cleaned up or not.

Gordon asked why they weren't doing on-going testing after clean up at set periods of time to see the quality of the air to judge the effectiveness of the clean up over time.

Gordon summed up asking if the community can work on these issues and a half a dozen more, locally, solve them and bring the results to Jim.

V. EPA Response

Jim Christiansen stated that regarding vehicle decontamination that if they are not being consistent, they should be. However, he said it was important to put it in perspective. He said you are not talking about a lot of fibers, compared to what is in the yard. While there could be an exposure, wouldn't say it was extreme. Don't want to get ridiculous on this. We need to be consistent, minimize problems, without over hampering progress. He said that he didn't want to spend all his time cleaning trucks. He asked that we put it in perspective, that no one was going to drop over dead of cancer from a fiber floating to the next door.

Regarding Gordon's request to see the EPA and EPA's contractor's policies and procedures for clean up, Jim admitted that they don't have policies and procedures to show him. Jim said that they are learning as they go and stressed they are still in emergency clean up phase. He took exception that there was little consistency, instead felt that there were minor inconsistencies that are being corrected over time with the daily contractor meetings to discuss them. Scott, EPA contractor, said that the contractors have a discussion every morning about things that have gone wrong in the clean up. They discuss how not to do it again. The Contractor said that it would take three days to take apart a vent and clean it and that is three days that they

could have been doing other things. Aubrey asked that we consider how much benefit we would get out of this task when compared to the amount of risk. Aubrey said Jim has to weigh the needs with limitations as there is only so much money. He said we live in a finite world.

Jim said, if we are looking for zero fiber exposure, that is not a consideration, concession must be there. Aubrey said you've already made a concession that you want to live in this community. He said we can't demand paradise but reality. Gordon responded that we want as close to paradise as possible.

Jim said to insert a bit of reality here, EPA's position on homes with vermiculite asbestos nationwide is: we don't move it, we don't touch it, we don't clean ducts, and we certainly don't clean walls. Jim cautioned that if we push too hard, they're going to push back.

Aubrey said money is part of the problem. Clinton said money is all of the problem. Jim said he is trying to remove as much as possible with the money available. Clinton said that if the Federal government looked at the cost effectiveness of long term medical costs then a thorough abatement would be done. He said when medical is added to the equation then he was sure that all exposure possibilities would be removed.

Jim asked as a close out message that further discussion with a tone of conspiracy here and especially at CAG, that our contractors are doing the minimum clean up and that we are screwing up is not appropriate. He asked us to cut him and the workers here at the site some slack. Clinton said this is an ordeal, we are tired and this is more than a community should have to endure. But, he told Jim, we're glad you're here, don't forget that.

Jim stressed he has good intentions and so do the people on the job site. He said they might not do the right thing every time; that they may have cut corners but in general people here are trying to do a good job.

To answer Gordon's question of why the first few homes, trucks were being washed off before leaving the site and homes were fully encapsulated in plastic bubbles, Jim said that they now knew that was not necessary. He said that they had gone overboard in the beginning being cautious and now knew that level of caution was not necessary and too expensive to continue.

Jim said he didn't know that bringing private vehicles onsite was a problem.

Jim said there were no specific procedure documents regarding heater vents. He said they will vacuum what they can reach in the duct system. They know it is a limitation to clean out ducts but to take them apart would be too expensive. He wanted to concentrate on the major sources of contamination with the dollars he has.

Jim stated that there was no doubt they are leaving asbestos in the carpets when they leave a site after clean up. He says has no way to address this issue.

Jim stated that Libby was the most rigorous clean up in history and for some time to come. While he didn't want to diminish the danger, he wanted to strike a balance. He doesn't want people to panic. He stated that a small amount of exposure risk was very, very small over the course of a lifetime. He said that "we are" comfortable with a small amount of exposure. He said in the relative scheme of things, there was low danger. He asked us to help him, help the public understand that. Jim admitted that there should be consistency in how units are cleaned up but said we don't want to get ridiculous, we want to be consistent without impeding progress.

Jim said that he is trying to improve quantification and deferred to Aubrey. Aubrey said we want to help you understand the science we're looking at. Aubrey said that we are dealing in the edge of science. He felt that issues are part perception, part actual. George said that you have to understand that the people in this community have been tested and re-tested for three years and have have been repeatedly told the dangers of aesbestos. Now you're trying to tell us to back off, it's not as bad as you think it is. I'm saying you've done a good sell job but now you've got a super sale job to make us believe it's not that bad. George defer to Aubrey with that one. If you now know it is safe, show us the revised science to prove it.

Jim said that if you slow us down in our work, you sacrifice our ability to clean up. Jim went over Chris Weis risk models and said that no doubt they are flawed and outdated and that they are being redone. He said that EPA has standards that "we" have to follow. Jim went through Chris's various risk models, e.g., living in a house with contaminated dust for 20 hours a day, 7 days a week for 40 years indicated excessive risk. He quoted another study that a contractor works 4 days a week for 20 weeks for 40 years that

he says there is less risk. Roto tilling in contaminated soil, Jim quoted, was well below the line of risk when doing once or twice a week for 10 to 20 times a year for 40 years. Contacting vermiculite insulation occasionally as a homeowner, such as once or twice every six months for 40 years, didn't reach a problem level at all, per Jim. Aubrey interrupted to say that they recognized that there is an added level of complexity here with the type of asbestos and the health effects here in Libby, that they are moving well beyond the model in clean up. He agreed with Jim's assessment that this cleanup was going way beyond the level ever done before but that was because of the type of asbestos. He said considering the tiny bit of risk, let's concentrate on the things that cause the most risk and put our emphasis of clean up there. Jim said that there is perceived vs. actual risk and he is trying to hit a balance. Jim said that all mineral fiber being equally disease potent was very flawed assumption. He admitted that toxicity is much higher than the EPA standard model but that was why everything was going beyond the normal EPA clean up guidelines. Jim said, we are, if anything, erring on the side of caution in the degree of clean up we are doing here.

Jim said you can work on issues locally and there is no way they aren't going to listen to locals, but what they do in the end, he didn't know. He said we know those limitations (e.g., duct contamination) are there but we don't know what level of problems they cause. Jim said that right now those issues are less on his radar screen.

Gordon had a question regarding the possibility of going back at set periods of time to retest and Jim responded that during the Remedial Investigation phase they will be going back to homes to see what people are being exposed to. George stressed that heat ducts should not be taped off when you do that retesting, that it's hypocritical to say that is a valid test. Aubrey said the community would have input into all that but remember the cost benefit. If they are stopping to take apart a heat vent/duct that's money they could have been spending somewhere else.

VI. Board Discussion

Rick asked what is an acceptable level of exposure? Rick said that he recalled from a web site he read that the acceptable level was zero. Clinton said that the EPA current standards that Chris's risk models are based on all mineral fiber being equally disease potent, that is very flawed. The IRIS

files are being re-opened to indicate ampoule vs. serpentine. Clinton said the toxicity is much higher than anything the EPA standard indicates.

Jim said that is a long discussion and they don't have a perfect answer for you. He said EPA has models that they are obligated to use at this time.

Mary asked Gordon if anybody could go into a clean up site and see for themselves what's going on. Gordon said you can probably go into a neighbor's house after clean up to see the inside but you can go to anyone's clean up site if you look from the outside. George urged people go from site to site and look for consistency.

Rick asked why Parker's tractor was destroyed and now people's belongings are merely being put in plastic bags. He asked, how could the standards change so much? Gordon said this is a discussion that could go on for a long time.

Rick asked who is responsible for deciding that a home owner can move back into a house after a clean up, Jim said that ultimately he was responsible for each and every clean up site but that he obviously was not on site all the time and he set up written procedures so he can delegate that.

Sandy said that part of our mission is to be the educational conduit for the community to keep the fear factor under control by working together with EPA to get answers. She said, we intend to be very open, honest, and frank with one another. She said the only way to work is straight forward to work out solutions.

Sandy asked what should happen when someone, e.g., city employee, encounters contamination in the course of their work, such as digging a hole. Jim responded that they could wet down the soil that EPA won't mobilize for every incident. Jim said they should probably formalize a procedure because that is a continuous question he gets. Sandy said, what if you're not trained and don't know what to look for? D.C. said you could call your supervisor but what at that point what if he tells you to bury it. D.C. Orr said that he would back out of a situation if he got into contamination and that is putting him a disadvantage with competitors who are not being as health conscious.

Clinton brought up about "clean vermiculite" terminology that was brought up at the last CAG meeting. Jim said that there will be incidents when they can test and re-test some asbestos and won't get a reading.

D.C. Orr brought up someone anonymously making a video tape of his truck purportedly illegally dumping contaminated materials. He questioned that if EPA said a site was cleaned and then he or another contractor took materials from the site and it later found contaminated, asked who is at fault. Jim said it was an imperfect thing, that D.C. did nothing wrong.

Clinton asked how, after telling us we needed to clean this stuff up, are you asking us to make a home a containment vessel for it. He hopes that when the studies are updated and redone, Jim can come back and do the walls and do a complete clean up so we don't have to worry for the future.

Gordon said now that he has had his home cleaned he recognizes the complexity of thoroughly cleaning up a site. Clinton said maybe if EPA had destroyed your house and paid you for it you could be happy today. Jim interrupted asking the Parkers if destroying their property had made them happy. It had not. Jim said that seemed like a simple solution four years ago but they found that to destroy a person's property and give them a replacement is not satisfactory, and is expensive.

Red said that the Grace Plan is not sufficient, that the definition of what symptoms indicate that you are sick of asbestos changed as of today. He said that this will probably cut off many Libby people from the Grace Health Plan.

Clinton asked Jim to educate the public to moisten buildings or soil before proceeding in demolition or digging in areas that might be contaminated. Jim said he doesn't know that it is required. He said he could advise but can't require. Jim said he couldn't possibly stop people in Libby from being exposed to contamination for an hour at a time. Clinton asked for a consistent educational message for the public. Jim said if he tried that people would then say if it's contaminated I shouldn't touch it and EPA should come remove it.

George brought up that the matter of non-detect might just be that the equipment EPA has on site is not capable of detecting.

Audience member asked how the one year check up will be done. Jim said haven't worked that out yet but maybe will have people move out, maybe will put personal monitors on them and ask them to go about their normal life. Jim says that he expects that those sites that were cleaned today will show they are still clean a year from now.

Jerry asked about the comfort letters that will be issued for individual properties. He said those will make a big impact on the real estate here in Libby. He wanted to know if the letters will be specific to the homes cleaned or a form letter. Jerry said he wants to see the draft soon so TAG can have input on this. George said he wants to know where the responsibility will lie at the point the letter is issued. He asked if responsibility will be transferred to the home owner or the state. Jim said he has a letter that is fairly nebulous that they give out at the close out of the clean up.

(Tape was switched during this time and further comments by Jim on this matter were not recorded. If someone can fill in here, I'd appreciate it. I heard that Jim said he hasn't even started on the comfort letter. Is that right? Barb)

Clinton's comments re state helping during the period after clean up is that they don't have any money. Craig French stated that in the State's 2006 budget, the state has been asked for money for Libby and a bond issue has been introduced for consideration. Jim said the state has to put up 10% cost share as part of this process and haven't put that up yet, so those resources could maybe be used for a number of things including taking on the Troy clean up site.

VII. Open Discussion

A member of the audience asked what happens with those properties where a property owner refuses to have his property cleaned. Jim said he is trying to convince everyone to allow clean up. He is knocking on doors personally trying to convince them and feels he is meeting some success. He said at some point that will have to be cut off. He thinks that property that was not cleaned up will probably be tagged so that the next person coming on that property knows it has not been cleaned. Gordon said that if the folks around

this table, if they believe in the clean up, go talk to people in this community it would help.

Mr. Parker said that TAG is accomplishing what we needed quite awhile ago. He said that he and his wife have been fighting on their own and now feel they have a voice. He said that he thinks TAG is doing great things and hope that it gets another grant and is able to follow through right up until the time that EPA leaves our community. George thanked Mr. Parker and said we try to get closure on issues. Jerry asked the Parkers and the community that if there are lingering things that need to be worked out with EPA, then come to LATAG, that's our job. He said, we're the go-between between the community and the EPA. George explained about Tiger Teams, volunteers looking into issues. He explained that all money is spent on the Technical Advisor and Grant Administrator, insurance and incorporation fees, the rest are volunteer labor and donated funds.

It was brought up that if and when Chris's numbers in his studies are changed and validated then EPA should come back and let us know.